

**From:** MCPHERS@Nationwide.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/2/02 3:25pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

For years Microsoft has set the standard for the rest of the technology industry to follow. Their sustained excellence has created opportunities for consumers, of all economic strata, to access and leverage PC technology as well as the internet. As a result of this excellence, consumers and American business have embraced Microsoft products as the industry standard. It seems the only factions reluctant to do so are Microsoft's direct competitors, as well as legislators beholden to these special interest groups.

The U.S. Department of Justice has agreed to a settlement, that, by all accounts, will further extend technological benefits to groups that were heretofore somewhat limited in their ability to access these benefits. It's my understanding the settlement also requires Microsoft release "trade secrets" to its' competitors. Still, there are those who feel that the settlement is inequitable. My feeling is that those opposed will not be satisfied until the company is broken up. Only under such conditions will these underperformers be able to compete in the marketplace and that, of course, is their ultimate goal, to turn a profit. Since they can't do it under the American system of business, they will try to do so by crying "foul".

Make no mistake, those in support of extending this action have only their own self-interests at heart and they are asking taxpayers to foot the bill for their attempts to realize these interests. I for one am tired of it. This "suit" has gone on long enough. The cost to the parties involved far exceeds any benefit consumers will ever receive. I urge you to put an end to these proceedings as well as this pattern of catering to the lowest common denominator. Your failure to do so runs contra to everything our country was founded on.

The above commentary is personal in nature and in no way represents the views of Nationwide Insurance or any of it's affiliates.

Sincerely,  
Scott J. McPherson